

Message Text

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ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 STR-02 STRE-00 AGRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EUR-08 IO-06 INRE-00 /044 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8613
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 16981

LIMDIS

USEEC

PASS STR FOR STARKEY; AGRICULTURE FOR HATHAWAY AND SAYLOR
ELECTRONICALLY
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL MTN'S - JACQUOT ON SOME OF THE STRAUSS
PRODUCTS

1. A RELIABLE TRADE SOURCE, WHO COLLABORATES CLOSELY WITH
US, MET PRIVATELY WITH JACQUOT ON SEPTEMBER 6. HE GAVE US
THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF JACQUOT'S REMARKS.

2. THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM
THE U.S. TO IMPROVE ITS OFFERS ON THE SO-CALLED STRAUSS
PRODUCTS. THEREFORE, IT IS NOW READY TO IMPROVE EC
TARIFF TREATMENT OF FRESH ORANGES, PROBABLY BY EXTENDING
THE PERIODS FOR APPLYING THE LOWER DUTY RATES. JACQUOT DID
NOT MENTION LEMONS, THOUGH SOURCE HESITATES TO ASCRIBE
ANYTHING SINISTER TO THIS OMISSION. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO
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PROBE INTO MUCH MORE DETAIL THAN JACQUOT VOLUNTEERED.

3. JACQUOT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING ABOUT CONCESSIONS ON
FRESH TABLE GRAPES. THE ONLY SERIOUS OPPOSITION REPORTEDLY
IS FROM BELGIUM, AND JACQUOT FELT THAT THE COMMISSION
WOULD HAVE LITTLE PROBLEM IN OVERCOMING THIS.

4. THE COMMISSION IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FINISHING THE NEGOTIATIONS BY DECEMBER 15. BUT IF THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE, THEN FEBRUARY 1979 IS THE OUTSIDE LIMIT BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY EXPIRY OF THE TRADE ACT.

5. COMMISSION HAS AGREED INTERNALLY (AND BY NOW HAS PROBABLY TOLD ITS WASHINGTON DELEGATION) TO MEET "AT THE WOLFF LEVEL" ON SEPTEMBER 27-28 FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE STRAUSS PRODUCTS' ISSUE. JACQUOT SEES THIS MEETING AS CRITICAL FOR HOLDING TO THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE.

6. JACQUOT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH SPAIN ON ANY AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS IT MAKES IN THE MTN. (WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THERE IS NO SUCH PROVISION IN THE EC/SPAIN TRADE AGREEMENT REQUIRING SUCH CONSULTATION, NOR TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS THERE ANY PROTOCOL OR UNDERSTANDING, TO THIS EFFECT. WE BELIEVE THIS REPORT OF JACQUOT'S COMMENT WAS GARBLED. WHAT HE PROBABLY MEANT WAS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CONCESSIONS THAT IT MAY GIVE TO SPAIN IN THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS AND ALSO THE PARANOIC FEARS OF CERTAIN FRENCH AGRICULTURAL INTEREST REGARDING CONCESSIONS IN BOTH AREAS.)

7. JACQUOT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY MADE NONE OF HIS USUAL DEROGATORY OR CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE U.S. OR ITS
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TRADE NEGOTIATORS. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE GENERAL TONE OF HIS REMARKS REFLECTED A DELIBERATE CHANGE IN THE COMMISSION'S ATTITUDE, AND IT PRESAGES SOME PROGRESS IN THE DIFFICULT SO-CALLED STRAUSS PRODUCTS AREA.
MCCARTHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
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